

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSY-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8160

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 266

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEC, COMECON

SUBJECT: WELLERSTEIN'S VIEWS ON EC COMMISSION VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: EC BRUSSELS 501

1. SUMMARY. THE EC COMMISSION'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE FORTH-COMING TALKS WITH COMECON IN MOSCOW HAS BRIEFED US IN CONFIDENCE ON THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH. THEY INTEND TO RESIST A COMMITMENT FOR A VISIT BY ORTOLI IF COMECON WANTS A HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL EXCHANGE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. THE COMMISSION HOPES TO TURN ASIDE ANY COMECON MOVE TO SERVE AS THE NEGOTIATING AGENT FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THEIR TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE EC. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING A MEETING WITH MISSION OFFICERS ON JANUARY 22, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS WELLENSTEIN COMMENTED ON THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW OF THE EC COMMISSION DELEGATION WHICH HE WILL HEAD. WELLENSTEIN SAID HE EXPECTED THE DISCUSSION WITH COMECON REPRESENTATIVES TO LAST THREE DAYS, FEBRUARY 4-6. THE COMECON SIDE, HE CONTINUED, AS PROPOSED AS DISCUSSION "THEMES" CONDITIONS OF TRADE, AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. THE EC COMMISSION FOR ITS PART HAS PROPOSED: (A) POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS ("BOTH EC AND COMECON MUST HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THE OTHER DOES," WELLENSTEIN SAID); (B) EXCHANGE OF STATISTICS; AND (C) LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS.

3. COMECON REPRESENTATIVES HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEIR GOAL REMAINS A MEETING WITH COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND THAT THEY WILL PRESS THIS POINT, ALONG WITH AN AGENDA OF TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN ORTOLI AND FADEYEV, WITH THE COMMISSION DELEGATION IN MOSCOW. WELLENSTEIN IS CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIETS WANT ORTOLI TO COME ESSENTIALLY FOR POLITICAL AND OPTICAL REASONS; E.E. TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO COMECON AND AS PART OF THE "NORMALIZATION" OF INTRAEUROPEAN RELATIONS. THE COMMISSION PLANS TO TAKE THE LINE THAT A VISIT BY ORTOLI WOULD ONLY MAKE SENSE IF IT IS JUSTIFIED ON SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS. IF THE FEBRUARY STAFF-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ARE TOO THIN, THEN THERE COULD BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ORTOLI'S MAKING A TRIP LATER. WELLENSTEIN SAID THAT THUS FAR THE COMECON REPRESENTATIVES HAVE NOT COMPLETELY ACCEPTED THIS APPROACH.

4. THE EC COMMISSION EXPECTS THAT COMECON REPRESENTATIVES IN MOSCOW WILL ADVOCATE THAT COMECON AS A BODY SHOULD REPRESENT ITS MEMBER STATES IN DEALINGS WITH THE COMMUNITY ON TRADE QUESTIONS. IF THIS POINT IS INDEED RAISED, WELLENSTEIN SAID THE COMMISSION DELEGATION WILL POINT OUT THAT THE EC-- UNLIKE COMECON--HAS A COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY TOWARD THIRD COUNTRIES. THE EC LINE WILL BE THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND IF THE COMECON STATES DEALT WITH THE US, JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES BILATERALLY WHILE INSISTING THAT TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND EASTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES MUST PASS THROUGH COMECON.

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5. COMMENT: THERE ARE OBVIOUS WEAKNESSES IN THE COMMISSION'S LINE: (A) THE COMMUNITY'S BASIC OPPOSITION TO INCLUDE TRADE MATTERS IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH COMECON RUNS COUNTER TO ITS EMPHASIS ON SUBSTANTIVE CONTENTS FOR AN ORTOLI VISIT; AND (B) THE COMMISSION'S RATIONALE ABOUT COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY INVITES SOVIET PRESSURE ON EE'S TO ACCEPT A SIMILAR POLICY IN COMECON. MOREOVER, THE SOVIET ANSWER TO THAT LAST SENTENCE IN

PARA FOUR ABOVE WILL PRESUMABLY BE THAT THEY DO NOT ACCEPT THE  
COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY AS REPLACING TRADE RELATIONS WITH  
THE NINE INDIVIDUALLY. GREENWALD

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